

MediaTitle	New Sabah Times English (KK)		
Date	23 Sep 2013	Language	English
Circulation	23,655	Readership	
Section	Home	Color	Black/white
Page No	5	ArticleSize	144 cm <sup>2</sup>
AdValue	RM 277	PR Value	RM 831



## Newcomers foray reflects Puteri Umno resolves for change

KUALA LUMPUR: The large number of candidates entering the fray in Puteri Umno polls next month is a manifestation of the wing resolves for transformation.

At the close of nomination on Saturday, 95 per cent of 38 candidates were new faces while only two candidates are defending their posts, namely permanent chairman Azlieza Azizan, who won uncontested, and executive committee member Isfarina Mohd Bali who is also Ipoh Barat Puteri chief.

Only one nomination was received for the permanent chairman post, deputy permanent chairman (two), Puteri chief (two), Puteri vice-chief

(three) and executive committee members (30).

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia geostrategist Prof Dr Azmi Hassan said the sheer number of new candidates offering themselves for the posts was a manifestation of members' aspiration for change in the party.

"The people are watching Umno polls with interest to evaluate whether the party truly wants to change or otherwise in responding to the needs of the people after the 13th general election," he said.

He said the high percentage of new faces was a clear signal that Puteri was moving in the right direction in enticing more young women to join

Umno and brushed aside a notion that young women were not interested in politics.

Universiti Utara Malaysia politics and international studies lecturer Md Shukri Shuib said the intense contest for Puteri posts was the best expression of love for the party.

"This is a process of continuity in Umno leadership

and prove that the party is not curtailing contests for top posts as any member can jostle for positions," he told Bernama here.

Universiti Teknologi Mara media communication studies senior lecturer Assoc Prof Dr Ismail Sualman said he hoped the new faces could help re-

juvenate Umno and produce credible future leaders.

"This is evidence that democracy flourishes in Puteri Umno," he said, adding that the wing was also a good foundation for young women to get involve in politics and prepare them to be future leaders. — Bernama



Rosnah Shirlin – Puteri chief